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FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

FROM : American Embassy, Moscow

107
DESP. NO.

DEC 16 1960

TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON

December 16, 1960
DATE

REF :

S/S-2 AF-5 L/CCA-2 S/S-1 FE-4 NEA-4 S/EWC-1 ARA-4 S/AE-4 D-7

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	REC'D 12-21	INFO OTHER USIA-11 OSD-2 Army-35 Navy-20 Air-25 Cia-16 OCB-2 NSA-4 FBI-1

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Negative

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EXTERNAL - POLITICAL

UNCLASSIFIED

1. Appeal of Communist Party Conference. The Appeal of Communist and Workers Parties to Peoples of the whole world, successor to the 1957 Manifesto, published on Dec. 11, resembled its companion document the 1960 Statement in that it used sharper language concerning the US. The Appeal, which is essentially a tactical document for the world communist movement, identified a number of issues which should be used for isolating the US under the guise of the campaign to prevent war. The issues mentioned had some interesting twists and omissions; among these were the attribution of responsibility for nuclear rearmament of Germany to the "Atlantic bloc countries" and not to the US alone; Algeria was not mentioned in this section of the Appeal, while West Irian, and even Goa, were; Turkey and Iran were not cited by name as having military ties with the US -- suggesting the possibility that the USSR hopes to detach these countries from the Western collective security system. The specific mention of Taiwan along with Chinese Communist rights to their "rightful place" in the UN was interesting in view of the silence on Taiwan in public speeches during Liu Shao-chi's visit here. This reference to Taiwan may reflect a Soviet commitment to Liu to work more actively for the improvement of Communist China's international status. The Appeal, like the 1960 Statement, put much emphasis on colonialism but specifically mentioned only areas in Africa south of the Sahara and not Latin America and Africa, North Africa or Oceania where communist propaganda alleges that colonialism is still practiced in one form or another. This may reflect some difficulty in simplifying and dramatizing the claim that the US is the essence of contemporary colonialism. The Appeal offered collaboration to social democrats and to members of other parties and organizations "which are for peace." This offer is similar to the communist bid for collaboration with nationalists in underdeveloped countries in exchange for support of certain elements of the communist propaganda, such as banning the bomb and liquidating overseas military bases.

2. Laos. The Soviet press was sparing in its comment on the situation in Laos, although it made it clear that the situation had reached a serious point, that civil war was in progress, and that the communist Pathet Lao guerrillas had been called upon to activate themselves throughout Laos. Although the press portrayed the situation as a rebellion against the lawful government of Laos inspired by the US, Thailand came in for heavy criticism both for carrying out Washington's orders and for having an unfriendly attitude toward Laos.

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Deputy Foreign Minister Kuznetsev called in Ambassador Thompson Dec. 13 and handed him a note accusing the US of violating Article 12 of the 1954 Geneva conference declaration on Indo-China, which calls on signatories to refrain from interference in internal affairs of Indo-Chinese states. The note called attention to the Soviet Government's role as a co-chairman of the Geneva conference and said that it could not ignore the situation arising from US activity in Laos.

DECLASSIFIED

The Soviet public was not made aware by the Soviet press that Soviet aid including military weapons was being furnished to Kong Le. The press also gave contradictory information as to whether Quinim was the legal successor to Souvanna Phouma or not. Although the papers took the position that the Quinim-Kong Le forces were on the side of the people and therefore implicitly were bound to win out in the end the immediate prospects for this group were pictured as pessimistic.

3. Algeria. (OFFICIAL USE ONLY) Soviet press comment on de Gaulle's Algerian visit has been restrained and circumspect as far as de Gaulle himself is concerned, while condemning the Algerian and French ultras and calling for a negotiated settlement. An Izvestiya (Dec. 9) article was critical of de Gaulle in connection with the planned referendum on Algeria, characterizing it as an effort to prevent rapid solution of the crisis. However, press reporting of de Gaulle's visit and the riots carefully avoided attacks on the French president. Even more striking as an example of Soviet caution was the published response, in the form of a TASS statement (Dec. 15), to Ferhat Abbas' appeal to Khrushchev to do all in his power to stop French "genocide" in Algeria. The statement amounted to a mild rebuke to de Gaulle and a reiteration of the Soviet call for an immediate end to the war on the basis of giving the Algerians a "guarantee of the right to self-determination and independence." The statement concluded with an expression of conviction on the part of Soviet leaders that the common efforts of peace-loving countries will lead to an end of the war. It was also notable that the statement referred to the fact that Abbas had appealed to the heads of several states and the UN, as if to convey to the Soviet public that the USSR was not solely responsible for responding to the Algerian leader.

4. VIP Visits. UAR Vice President Marshal Amer visited Moscow from Nov. 30 to Dec. 10. Although he was accorded top-level treatment and the Soviet press prominently reported his speeches and receptions, there was no indication as to the nature of Amer's negotiations with Soviet leaders. A UAR Embassy officer did state that the Congo was discussed at length and it is generally assumed that military aid and details of the Aswan Dam program were also under consideration. In his public statements, Amer consistently endorsed Soviet propaganda lines on disarmament, colonialization, foreign and military bases, and military alliances.

Cuba. Ernesto Che Guevara returned from Asia on Dec. 10 and remained in Moscow for three days before departing for East Berlin. In reporting his departure from Berlin, the Soviet press added he would again return to Moscow. On Dec. 12 the Soviets dispatched a trade delegation under Dep Min of Foreign Trade Kuzmin to Havana where they are to conclude trade contacts. Guevara's return and the departure of a Soviet delegation to Havana to discuss the topics Guevara allegedly is here to handle suggest that the negotiations may be difficult or that Guevara has turned his attention to political questions.

Brazil. Vice President Goulart concluded a 10-day visit in the USSR and departed on Dec. 14. While here as guest of Soviet Vice Premier Organov, Chairman of the RSFSR Supreme Soviet, Goulart saw Mikoyan, Brezhnev and Kosygin, as well as visiting Leningrad.

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5. Germany-Norstad Plan. The Soviet campaign against West German armaments has been increasingly directed against the Norstad plan in the past two weeks. The major point in Soviet attacks on the plan is that it is simply a subterfuge for providing West Germany with atomic weapons. On Dec. 13 Pravda published a basic review of the plan obviously timed to coincide with the opening of the NATO Council ministerial meeting. The article warns against turning NATO and thereby West Germany into a fourth atomic power, accuses the US of attempting to push the plan through in the last days of the Eisenhower administration, thereby confronting Kennedy with an accomplished fact, and denounces alleged Washington-Bonn axis for attempting maintain cold war.

Most Soviet papers noted in terse reports the appointment of Gen. Heusinger to the NATO standing group in Washington.

The breakdown of Soviet-Federal Republic trade talks in Bonn were reported in relatively restrained form on Dec. 14-15, considerable emphasis being given to mutual advantages of past trade. However, Pravda on Dec. 15 in a commentary from Bonn denounced the "last minute interposition" by Bonn of a Berlin clause as a crude effort to exploit the trade negotiations for political purposes. This, according to Pravda, only proves the correctness of the recent Moscow declaration by the Communist Parties which criticized West Germany as the major threat to peaceful co-existence in Europe.

6. Polaris Sub Base in UK. The TASS statement published in Pravda (Dec. 12) on the new Polaris sub base in Scotland seemed intended primarily to destroy the image of Prime Minister Macmillan as a promoter of relaxation of East-West tension. The statement repeated in essence the charges leveled against Macmillan by Kozlov in his Nov. 6 speech in Moscow and marked a further stage in the Prime Minister's apparently declining favor in Soviet official eyes. A secondary purpose of the statement was clearly to provide ammunition for the anti-base campaign in the UK by conveying the threat of Soviet retaliation on the Polaris sub base itself, even in the event the Polaris subs were operating against the USSR on the high seas. The statement repeated the familiar propaganda line that the British Government has deprived itself of freedom of action through its commitments under military agreements with the US. It may be noted that a corollary theme is that Britain is rapidly being replaced by West Germany as the main American partner in the NATO alliance.

7. Congo. The Soviet veto on the four-power resolution in the Security Council was reported in the Soviet press (though, as is invariably the practice, the word "veto" itself was not used). The conclusion drawn for the Soviet public from the SC proceedings was that the Council had once again refused to accept the task of normalizing the Congo situation and was paralyzing measures in this direction. Meanwhile, the "free Lumumba" campaign within the USSR gathered momentum with the holding of numerous meetings in industrial plants, collective farms, and higher schools. Soviet propaganda has also made a great deal of proposed withdrawal of troops by African states from Congo as evidence of African lack of confidence in the UN action. In addition, numerous press articles attacked US imperialism

in Congo. Pravda (Dec. 16) contained a personal attack on Ambassador Timberlake as "tutor of gangs of cut-throats." (The large volume of flaccid Soviet propaganda on Congo contrasted sharply with the terse press reports on events in Laos, where an operational situation exists.) However, as in the case of the Dec. 6 Soviet Government statement, there were no indications of Soviet intentions to undertake unilateral measures. An Izvestiya (Dec.10) "Observer" article made the usual charges about US and UN intervention but ended tamely with reference to the Soviet call for SC consideration of the crisis.

8. Appointments of Kennedy Administration Officials. (OFFICIAL USE ONLY) The Soviet press reported the Rusk, Bowles, and Stevenson appointments briefly without Mr. Kennedy's accompanying statement on what the tone of his Administration's foreign policy would be or any comment indicating the Soviet attitude toward the appointments. The press gave a brief sketch of Dean Rusk's background, including mention of his Rockefeller Foundation post. The appointment of McNamara and his Ford Motor Company connection were handled by the Soviet press in the same way. It was not reported that McNamara is a Republican.

INTERNAL (OFFICIAL USE ONLY)

9. Postponement of Central Committee Plenum: The CPSU Central Committee Plenum scheduled to start the discussion of agricultural topics on December 13, was postponed without explanation to "January" according to a one-sentence announcement published in the Soviet central press of December 10. The most probable explanation would seem to be a combination of the need to wait until Khrushchev can recover from his current bout of grippe and the dislocation in scheduled activity caused by the dragging out of the international communist conference. The conference and its accompanying heavy round of social and other protocol occasions undoubtedly caused a drain on the energies of all participants, making desirable a breather before a new surge of activity. Thus, N.G. IGNATOV, F.R.KOZLOV and O.V.KUUSINEN, not noted in public the past week or more, may be resting. The remaining Moscow resident leaders seem to have been sharing a reduced social schedule. The USSR and RSFSR Supreme Soviet sessions scheduled to commence December 20 and 26, respectively, have not yet been postponed and may be occasions for Khrushchev's return to activity.

Contributing factors to the Plenum's postponement may be a noted lagging in the holding of the plenums of subordinate party organizations, the need to finish incomplete preparatory work and, possibly unresolved problems related to policies of agricultural development or its management. In the latter connection, USSR Minister of Agriculture V.V.MATSKEVICH has been sniped at personally in two apparently unrelated press items in the last few days, the first secretary of the Bryansk Oblast party organization has just been removed for the "unsatisfactory direction of agriculture" (see below), and the account of a Kirgiz CC plenum included similar charges against two oblasts as well as suggesting serious concern over widespread padding of plan fulfillment reports and other evils termed "anti-state activities" (Sovietskaya Kirgizia, Dec. 10).

10. Oblast Party Changes Caused By Criticism of Agricultural Management: At a plenum session of the Bryansk Oblast Party Committee, December 13, A.U.PETUKHOV was released as first secretary and dropped from the Oblast Party Bureau for "unsatisfactory direction of agriculture." This followed sharp criticism of agricultural deficiencies (Pravda of Dec.14). During a discussion of "further growth in agriculture" and "fulfillment of socialist obligations" in the presence of no less than A.B.ARISTOV, CPSU Central Committee Presidium member and Khrushchev's Deputy Chairman of the CC's Bureau for the RSFSR,M.K.KRAKHMALEV, who until the meeting had been first secretary of nearby Belgorod Oblast, was elected to replace Petukhov.

The next day at a meeting attended by RSFSR Bureau Member and CC Party Organs for the RSFSR Section Chief M.T.YEFREMOV, a Belgorod Oblast Party plenum "released" Krakhmalev and elected Oblast Executive Committee Chairman A.V. KOVALENKO to take his place (Pravda of Dec. 15). Since such changes often are made with no reason given, the timing of the action against Petukhov for agricultural management failings may have more than local significance.

11. All-Union Conference of Medical Workers, Moscow, December 6-8: Published accounts of this conference suggest that diphtheria, tularemia and poliomyelitis are still prevalent in the USSR. (Pravda, Dec. 7,1960). T.B. incidence is admitted to be "still relatively high" although the claim was advanced that the T.B. death rate has declined. Malaria is said to have been eliminated in the Soviet Union. The conference discussion of Soviet medical services brought up a host of complaints familiar to medical services the world over. Despite proved announcements of a record number of 380,000 doctors in the USSR, their quality is criticized. In any event, hospital beds are in short supply. It was said that outside drains on doctors' time should be reduced, time lost on bureaucratic paper-work cut, and more favorable conditions for stimulating "self-improvement" created. On the propaganda side, the Soviet Union was pictured as having the highest health standards in the world and the lowest death rates. Very great reduction of death rates among "formerly" backward nationalities was played up as demonstrating the benevolence of Soviet administration. As the end of the conference, a "peace" appeal was issued to medical worker "colleagues" all over the world.

MILITARY

(Negative)

FOR THE AMBASSADOR:

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